

REPRESENTATION  
OF THE  
BENEFITS  
AND  
ADVANTAGES  
*Of making the*  
River AVON  
NAVIGABLE

From *Christ-Church* to the City of *New Sarum*;

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the City aforesaid,  
and the Countries bordering upon the said River, and to all other  
Persons that are, or may be concerned therein, for their Incouragement,  
*Joyntly* to carry on so Noble a Work.

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By J. H. A real Well-wisher both to the City and Country.

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L O N D O N,


Printed by *John Macock* for the Author, 1672.

**Licensed,**

Feb. 24.  
167 $\frac{1}{2}$

*Roger L'Estrange.*

HONORABLE SEAT



To the Right Worshipful the Major and  
Commonalty of the City of *New Sarum*,  
the Undertakers for making the River *Avon*  
Navigable, from *Christ-Church* to the City  
aforesaid, &c. and to the Gentry, Mini-  
sters, and the rest of the Inhabitants on  
both sides of the said River, with all others  
whom it may concern.

Gentlemen,

**I** *Am greatly sensible of my manifold weaknesses and insufficiencies for a Work of this Nature, and upon that account, I have as great an aversness as any from appearing in Print, especially in such a Critical Age, as this is. And therefore, had not some of your selves very much importuned me to it, these Papers had not been made thus publick.*

*But such is my zeal for my Country's good, and so great a Well-wisher am I to such publick Undertakings as this is, which is hereby recommended to you; as that I chose rather to expose my self to the Worlds severest Censures, for indiscretion and over-great forwardness, in communicating my weak Apprehensions about it, than to suffer such a noble Design any longer to lye asleep, if I might be any way instrumental, to awaken you to put forth your Endeavours to carry it on.*

## The Dedication.

*And therefore, I doubt not, but that you will manifest so much Candor and Ingenuity, as to put a favourable Construction upon what I have written, and to vouchsafe it a serious Perusal. In which, though you will not find such flowers of Rhetorick, as may please the Fancy; yet if the Reasons that are laid down, though with much weakness, and are submitted to your Consideration, may but any way convince your Judgments, how much it will conduce to the general Good, both of your selves and the whole Country, to make this River Navigable, it is sufficient. And I hope you will be prevailed with, without any further delay, to put forth your united endeavours to accomplish it. To provoke you hereunto, is all that I have aimed at in writing and publishing these Papers. I am*

Yours and my Country's Friend  
and Well-wisher,

*James Hely.*

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**SUCH**



**S**UCH is the wise and gracious Providence of the *Almighty*, in disposing of the Situation of the City of *New Sarum*, in the County of *Wilt*, together with all the Towns and Villages, which border upon each side of the River *Avon*, which runneth from the City aforesaid, to the Town and Burrough of *Christ-Church*, in the County of *Southampton*, where the said River emptieth it self into a Branch of the main Ocean: And so serene, sweet, and healthy is the Air on both sides thereof, which conduceth much to the Health and Comfort of the adjacent and bordering Inhabitants: And so inestimable would be the Profits and Advantages that would accrue, not only to the Country in general, but more particularly and especially, to all the persons and places, that are bordering upon the said River, within ten or twelve miles on either side, by its being made Navigable, for *Boats*, *Barges*, and *Lighters*; besides the Accommodation, which many other places betwixt this and *Newbury*, *Hungerford*, *Malborough*, *Devizes*, *Warminster*, *Hindon*, *Shaftsbury*, and *Blandford* would receive thereby; that our Ancestors have often attempted it, but could never obtain that Honour and Happiness, as to prevail with former Kings and Parliaments, to vouchsafe them their Sanction, to authorize them, to set about the Work.

But now it hath pleased God to incline the heart of our Sovereign Lord the King, and the High Court of Parliament to pass an Act, whereby Power is given to effect it, and such a Platform or Model laid down, with such advantages, not only to the Undertakers, but to all other places and persons before mentioned, as cannot but exceedingly facilitate the Work. And I doubt not, but that, had our Ancestors had the like (or indeed far less) encouragement, the Work would not have been retarded one Summer, after the Royal Assent had been given to an Act of Parliament that might have empowered them, to undertake it. And now, what should be the reason, that so noble and famous a Work as this should, like *Pharaohs* Chariot-wheels, move so slowly, unless it be the want of a true sense of the vast Emoluments and Advantages that will come thereby, not only to the present, but much more to the future Generations that shall rise up, when we are dead and gone, and enjoy much more of the fruit of our labours, then the present Age can expect, I do not understand.

And therefore out of the endeared affection that I bear to my native Country, I shall humbly offer to your grave and serious Consideration my weak Apprehensions, as to the present Work, together with that small

Experience that I have gained in my several Travels beyond the Sea ; hoping that it may be an Introduction to others that are more able ; and that it may both ingage and encourage them, to say more, and to communicate their thoughts and apprehensions concerning the great and wonderful advantages that will accrue thereby, not only to the whole Country, but more especially to the City, and all the other Towns, and places before-named.

Now how great the Benefit and Accommodation will be, that will come in thereby, will appear, if you do but seriously consider ( amongst other things, that I shall mention afterwards ) the indispensable necessity, and yet the great scarcity that there is already ; which in a few years will be greater, of that one thing called *Fuel*, of all sorts of Wood and Coal ; which when I seriously consider of, as also of the vast number of poor people that are in the City and Country aforesaid ; and how much they are like to increase, as well in number, as in poverty, I even dread to think of the Calamity that will befall them, if some speedy and effectual means be not found out for their relief. Now I cannot but look upon this noble Undertaking, of making the River Navigable, as the readiest ( if not the only effectual way ) that can be thought upon, to prevent this mischief, and to afford the Poor a full relief. This will be a means to cloath their naked Backs, and to feed their hungry Bellies. For by this means there will be very great opportunities of setting all hands, that are able and willing, to work ; not only at the ancient Work of the Pickax, and Spade, but multitudes will be employed all along the River, in lading and unlading of Goods into Wharves, Keys, Landing-places ; and into Carts and Carriages, and into Shops and Ware-houses ; into Granaries, Store-houses, Mault-houses, Pack-houses, Cellars, Stone-yards, Timber-yards, Wood-yards, Coal-yards, places for Bricks, Tiles, and Slate, &c. and from thence into Carts, Waggons, and Carriages, to be sent away by Land into all parts of the adjacent Country ; besides the vast numbers that will be employed in the Management of the Ships, Boats, Barges, and Lighters, &c. and also for the erecting and building, not only of Wharves, Keys, Cranes, and other Landing-places, but also of Store-houses, Ware-houses, Mault-houses, and Dwelling-houses for Merchants, Gentlemen, and all sorts of Handicrafts-men, Shop-keepers, and all other Traders ; of which great numbers will resort to the said City and Towns, in order to the carrying on of Trade and Commerce ; who will by this means have as full an Employment, as it is possible for them to turn their hands unto ; and so

that

that poverty, which is ready to break in upon us like an armed man, will be in all likelihood prevented. And not only so, but very great advantages will accrue to us thereby.

1. For in the first place, it will be a means to make this City, and the places bordering upon the River, the Granaries and Store-houses (as I may say) for the Trade of this part of this little World, *viz.* for all sorts of Coals, called Sea-Coal, and Pit-Coal; for Billets, Faggots, and all other Fuel; together with all sorts of Trees, *viz.* Oak, Elm, Ash, &c. with all sorts of Vessel-Timber, Wheelers-Timber, Lathes, Spikes, Hurdles, Barrows, Poles, and Lugs for all sorts of uses whatsoever; together with all sorts and sizes of Deal and other Timber, from the greatest piece to the least, that shall be necessary for the beginning and finishing of any House whatsoever; as also all sorts of Boards and Planks, of any thickness whatsoever, both of Oak, Ash, Elm, and Deal: all which, or the greater part thereof, will be had at not much more than half the price it is now sold at, if not less. And if there were no other benefit, but what I have already mentioned, it would be worth all the Charges and Pains, which shall be laid forth to accomplish this Design. But this is not all. There will be also a great advantage in respect of all sorts of *Stones*, and other heavy and ponderous Goods; so great, as if mentioned only in general, it would hardly be believed; and therefore I shall descend to Particulars, that I may the more clearly demonstrate it to you.

2. Wherefore the next thing that I shall mention is this, *viz.* that by this means this City, and the places near the River, will become Store-houses for all kind of Stones, not only Mill-stones, Grinding-stones, and Troughs, and Cisterns of Stone; but for all kind of Stone for building and repairing of Churches and Chappels; for the making of Statues, and Tombs, and Tomb-stones, and Monuments, and Church-walls, and Close-walls, together with Gates, Banks, Mills, Hatches, Flood-gates, Flood-Hatches, Weirs, Wharves, Locks; and for building of Houses, Coignes, Chimney-pieces, Clavies, Jaums, and Sides and Tops of Chimneys, Harths, Harth-pieces, and Mullions for Windows; as also all sorts of Marble, for Chappels, Chancels, Harth-pieces, and other Uses; and the great quantity that will be used of Stones, smooth and rough, about paving of Courts, Yards, Garden-houses, Cellars, Halls, Kitchens, Wash-houses, Brew-houses, &c. besides the great quantity of the hard round Pebble-stones for paving of Streets, Back-sides, and other places, and for other uses, that it is endless to reckon up, which will be useful, and be vented to all the Countries round about,

about, that are more remote from the Quarries, than from hence. And the like may be said, with reference to all sorts of Sand, and Gravel for Walks and Gardens, and all sorts of Clay, for making of Tobacco-pipes, for Tarris, Plaister of *Paris*, for Bricks, Tiles, Pantiles, Gutter-tiles, Cresses, all sorts of Slate, and Paving-tiles, &c. and for all sorts of Earthen Ware, *viz.* Pans, Pots, Pitchers, Jugs, Bottles, Cups, &c. and for all sorts of Glas for the Glaziers, and green Glasses of all sorts and sizes; and all things made of Glas, which is likewise endless to enumerate. And moreover, here will be vast stores of Iron of all sorts, not only that which is wrought by Smiths, Cutlers, Gunsmiths, Armourours, and others; but all sorts of cast Iron, as Stoves for drying of Mault; and all sorts of Pots, Weights, Belconies, Anvils, Vises, and divers Engines, and many other things too large to particularize. I might also mention the great Quantities of Brass, and Copper, Lead, and Tin, the several uses whereof should I particularly mention, as the making and casting of Bells, Morters, Pots, Skillets, &c. I might be very long. Hereunto might be added the great stores of all sorts of Groceries, and other ponderous Goods, as Wines, Oyl, Sider, Pitch, Tar, Butter, Cheese, Cloth, Wooll, and Yarn of all sorts, besides Hemp and Flax; as also the great store of Salt, both white Salt and Bay-Salt, which will be brought hither from the very Salt-pits, and laid up here for the supply of the Country round about, and sold at very reasonable Rates. Besides, by this means we shall be stored with all sorts of Fish, *viz.* Sturgeon, Ling, Cod, Poor-John, Herring, Salmon both dried and pickled, and with greater plenty of fresh Salmon, Trouts, Humbers, Pikes, Eels, and such other Fish as the River affords; besides the great quantities of Oysters, Lobsters, Crabs, and all sorts of Shell-fish, and other fresh Fish of all sorts, which the Sea affords; which will be brought to the City, and to the Country adjacent at a very cheap and easie Rate.

3. The next thing that I shall insist upon, is the great Benefit that will accrue to the Country at a considerable distance from *Salisbury*, by their being supplied with many of the aforesaid Goods; as for instance, If Fish Fowl and Salt are now carried from thence to *Newbury*, *Abingdon*, *Oxford*, *Malborough*, the *Devises*, and other places, whither shall these and all other places between them and this City have recourse hereafter for supply of these, and many other things before enumerated, but to this City? and where can they have it cheaper than there, where is (as I may say) the Store-house for them? And (which will be a greater Accommodation to all the Country round about, than can well be imagined) here will be a large

large vent for all their Grain, which they shall send to Market; which may from hence be exported in vast Quantities; and for their Wool, and for their fat Cattel, viz. Oxen, Hogs, and Sheep, &c. which may be vended for Victualling of Ships, and otherwise. And by this means also there will be a convenience for the Exportation of their Hops, Cloth, Stuffs, and other Commodities of the growth, and Manufacture of this Country, which shall be brought unto these Markets. So that wheres now many of the Countries are necessitated to travel as far as *Southampton, Newbury, Andover, Marlborough, the Devises, Lavington, Warminster, Hindon, Shafton, and Blandford* to vend their Commodities, they will have opportunity to bring them hither, and may have vent for them here, with far less trouble and charge. And by reason of the vicinity of this place to the River aforesaid, they will have the advantage of returning home with their Waggon and Carts laden with several sorts of the Goods before enumerated, either for themselves, or for their Neighbours; especially with Coal, which will be had cheaper here, than at *Warminster*, or at any of the places before mentioned; and will be not only cheaper for the price, but better for the quality; it having been found by Experience, that the Coals which are imported at *Southampton* and *Pool*, are seventeen or eighteen pound in a Bushel heavier than a Bushel of the same measure of those Coals that are brought from *Warminster*; and by reason of the sulphurous quality that is in them, they burn much lighter, and last much longer. Hence also they may be furnished with a sort of great Coals, which will be brought from *Wales*, and from *Scotland*, which are so great, that it will be necessary to break them with an Ax or Sledge, which are not only very lasting and profitable, but will burn as light, and as sweet as Wood or Charcoal.

4. Again it is worthy your Consideration, what great opportunities all Gentlemen, and others, that have money by them, or can raise money upon their Estates, will have, to merchandize themselves, and to breed up their younger Sons to be Merchants, who will by this means be near unto them, and may (if they be industrious) have opportunity (through Gods blessing) to raise themselves to greater Estates than their Elder Brothers. And by this means it will come to pass, that as it is in the Low-Countries, and in other places where people are industrious, there will be opportunity for all that will, from the Gentleman to the Yeoman, and all that can make any shift for money, to adventure their money, yea, and even for Servants of both Sexes, to adventure their very Wages, with one Friend

or other of their Acquaintance, to imploy it for them in a way of Trade and Merchandize ; and so to turn every stone to turn the penny. And now, to come more particularly, to set forth what other benefits will accrue to the City and Port of *Salisbury*, as also to *Downton*, *Fording-bridge*, *Ringwood*, *Christ-Church*, and to all the Borderers on both sides of the said River, as also to all persons and places within ten or twelve miles thereof, of what rank or degree soever ; if what hath been already said doth not preponderate, then

5. In the next place consider seriously, what a great improvement there will be in a few years upon Houses and Lands, not only in those Trading-places or Ports aforesaid, but all along within and near the aforesaid compass of ten or twelve miles. And first as to Land, there will be great opportunities of conveying of all sorts of Soyl, *viz.* Chalk, Lime, Malm, &c. which must needs conduce to a vast Improvement of their poor and barren Lands, that are on each side of the said River ; besides the great benefit that will arise by building ( as aforesaid ) of Wharves, Keys, Landing-places, Cranes, Store-houses, and other Houses, and by planting Orchards and Gardens. Furthermore, add hereunto the great conveniences that Gentry and all others that have Lands and Grounds upon each side of the said River, and others also at somewhat a remoter distance will have for the Carriage of their Hay, Straw, Wooll, Hops, Hemp, Flax, and all sorts of Grain, together with their Fowl, Poultry, Cheese, Butter, Eggs, Milk, and many other things almost from their very Doors, and Grounds, and Gardens, to and from the Market. Consider also the great Advantages of bringing Bricks, Stones, Tiles, Slate, Lime, Timber, Boards, Earth, and Sand, and abundance of other things, which it would be too tedious to recite, for the building not only of Wharves, Keys, and Landing-places ; but also for erecting of Cranes, Store-houses, Mault-houses, Granaries for Corn and Grain. And as the Gentry and others will be sometimes exercising their minds, thoughts, and meditations, in reference to their profits ; so sometimes they will mind their pleasure and delight ; for which here may be this way great conveniences, not only by planting Gardens and Orchards of Profit ; but by making Gardens of Pleasure, and Houses and Arbors of Pleasure, with their Tarris and Gravel-Walks, and Fountains, and Statues of all sorts, which may be also furnished with all sorts of rare Trees, Plants, and Flowers, that will be brought from Foreign parts, the bringing of which Trees, and other necessary Materials will not be very chargeable to them ;

for



for as much as they will be brought in Boats, and Landed in or near the very place. To which may be added the conveniency of their Pleasure-Boats in the Summer time, not only to go to and from the Markets; but also to visit each the other. And as to Houses in *Salisbury* and the Precincts thereof, and in other the before mentioned Market-Towns, and places near the said River, the Improvement will be also very great, by reason of the vast Trade and Commerce that will accrue thereby; which will both enrich and increase the number of Inhabitants, so that in probability these places may in a few years have twice the number of the Inhabitants, as now they have: and consequently they will have double the Trade amongst themselves. As for Instance, there will be twice as much Cloths of all sorts sold and made, and twice as much Victuals and Drink spent; and if the Inhabitants increase, and by that means Trade increase also, it will necessarily follow, that the Rents of Houses and Lands, not only of those that are Inhabitants; but of all that belong to Gentlemen and others, that dwell at a further distance, will be advanced. And this will be very evident, if we do but call to mind our own late Experience in the late dreadful Plague, wherewith it hath pleased God to visit the City. In what a flourishing condition both as to Trade, and Rent of Houses, and number of Inhabitants, that sickness did find us; and in what a sad and declining a condition it left us, cannot be gainsaid, neither will it be forgotten by this Generation.

6. Another Advantage that will issue from this Noble Undertaking, will be the great Accommodation that all sorts of persons will have thereby, of travelling to or from any place between *Salisbury* and *Christ-Church*. For they will have the conveniency of constant Passage-Boats, as well as Market-Boats for the carrying of all sorts of Passengers and Market-people with their Corn, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Poultry, Pigs, Lambs, Fowls, Fish of all sorts, together with what the Market or place uttereth; and then returning home with such Wares and Commodities as they have bought at the Market; which said Boats may be accommodated, so as to shelter them from storms, and the cold and wet of the Winter, and from the heat of the Sun in Summer.

7. Again, this will be a great means to preserve the High-ways, and Bridges, which will be a great Accommodation to all that border on either side of the said River, who have formerly been put to vast Expence and Charge, in making and repairing thereof; besides the trouble they have been frequently involved in by presentments in the Crown-

Office, and at the Assizes, and Sessions of the Peace, which could never be taken off without great expence : all which would be in a very great measure ( if not altogether ) prevented , by making the said River Navigable.

8. It will also be very beneficial to those Gentlemen and others that live on either side of the said River, who have plenty of all sorts of Trees for Timber-Wood , and Charcoal, and Coppices for Faggots, &c. and to all that have Grounds fit for Nurseries or Plantations of all sort of Fruit-trees ; and also fit for the making of Bricks, Tiles, Pan-tiles, Cresses, Pavements, Gutter-tiles ; as also to those who have any Interest in Quarries of Stone, and that have quantities of Lime, Malm, Chalk, Gravel, Sand, &c. near the said River, and that have Earth fit for the making of all sorts of Earthen Pans and Pots, with all other sorts of Earthen Wares that are useful.

9. And another Advantage that this Noble Work may afford , is this, viz. the opportunity that will be given to those places that are within twenty or thirty miles of the said River, and to some places that are more remote , to bring their Seed-Wheat out of *Sussex* by Water, for a very small matter more then it is to be sold for there ; so that whereas now many Gentlemen, Farmers, and others do send their Servants and their Horses as far as *Southampton* and *Red-Bridge*, with their money in their pockets to pay for it ; now they shall, without any such charge or trouble at all, only empty their Sacks of their Corn, which they bring to the Market, and fill them again with the said Seed-Wheat, and carry it home with them in their Carts and Waggons , which would otherwise return empty.

10. And finally , having thus given you an account of some few of those many Encouragements and Advantages, that may quicken your endeavours to compleat this noble publick Work , I shall briefly answer some Objections that have been and are made against it , which are these that follow.

*Object.* 1. It is objected, That it will be a very great hinderance to the Mills, Wears, Pens, Stanchels, and Hatches that are upon the said River.

*Object.* 2. And secondly , It is further urged , That it will be a great hinderance to the drowning of Meadow-grounds, because the Banks must be raised to keep out the Water ; to make a way for Men and Horses to hale up the Boats and Barges.

*Object.*



*Object.* 3. Thirdly, It is objected, That it will be a means to raise the Water in many places so high, as to overflow the Banks as now they are, and thereby endamage their Grounds.

*Object.* 4. Again, some plead, That several persons, who are Proprietors of Land, will be dammified hereby, by having a new Chanel cut through their Grounds.

I shall answer these Objections in their order: And I shall begin with the first.

*Object.* 1. Whereas it is objected, That it will be a great hinderance to Mills, Wears, &c.

*Answer.* I answer thus, That if there are any Mills, Wears, Pens, Fish-guards, Stanchels, or any thing else that are Nufances to the said River, or to any that border upon it; they ought by the Statute, or Commission of Sewers, &c. to be removed, and the Offenders to be severely punished, and great Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures to be set and levied upon any that already have, or hereafter shall any ways annoy the said River. And now the whole power of the said Commission of Sewers, not only for the said River, but also for the Harbor, being by this Act of Parliament placed and settled wholly in the Undertakers and Commissioners, appointed by the said Act, and not in any other Commissioners of Sewers whatsoever; so that now if any seven of the said Commissioners would give themselves the trouble, upon the Charge of the Undertakers, to take Boats, and go down the said River and Harbor, and to take an exact Survey thereof, and take notice of all the Ineroachments, Letts, Hinderances, and Nufances whatsoever that there are; and effectually, to all intents and purposes, put in execution the power of the Commissioners of Sewers, which is vested in them by this Act; it would be such a noble and publick Work, as would not only lay a very good foundation, but would strike a very great stroke in the making of this River Navigable. And when they shall have thus surveyed the whole River and Harbor, they will be the better able to judge of the lawful profits and advantages that any Proprietor hath upon the same. And for those that have a just and right propriety, God forbid that it should be taken from them, without competent satisfaction and compensation for it. This would very much facilitate all the other work of the said Commissioners, in reference to the satisfaction of Proprietors. And thus much in answer to the first Objection. I proceed to the second.

*Object.*

*Objeñ.* 2. Whereas it is further objected, That it will be a great hinderance to the drowning of Meadow-grounds, because the Banks must be raised to keep out the Water, to make a way for Men and Horses to hale up the Boats and Barges.

*Ansiv.* I answer, That although Meadows and other Grounds may descend by Inheritance from Ancestors to their Posterity; yet drowning of Grounds can have no such descent, because it is a way of Improvement that is found out *De novo*. And although it may be granted, that watering of Grounds is of publick Concernment; yet it cannot be denied, that this work of Navigation is very much superiour to it, and therefore ought to have the precedency, wheresoever it comes. Besides, where Grounds lye conveniently for drowning, it is no great Charge to make an Hatch or Trunk in the said Bank it self, to let in the Water, and a small Bridge to preserve it, as also to accommodate the Horses and men for haling up the said Boats, Barges, &c.

*Objeñ.* 3. And to the third Objection drawn from the danger of overflowing the Banks, as now they are.

*Ansiv.* I answer, That there may be a necessity in some places to make a very firm Bank on one or both sides of the said River, and there I dare assure them, the Water shall not overflow. And I dare affirm, that the Advantages that the Proprietors or Occupiers of every Ground, joyning to the said River, shall have thereby, will be so great, as will countervail all the damage and loss, as also the Costs and Charges that they shall be at to rear their Banks so high, as to keep the Water from overflowing; and yet not lose their benefit by watering, as you may see in my Answer to the second Objection.

*Objeñ.* 4. And to the fourth and last Objection, that I have met withal, *viz.* that several persons will be damnified hereby, by having a new Chancel cut through their Grounds.

I answer, That there will be very great benefits that will accrue, both to the Grounds and to the Owners of them, which will abundantly repair their pretended loss. For first, by means of this new Chancel coming through some Grounds, they may thereby have the advantages, not only of watering their Cattel, but of loading their Hay into Boats on each side of the said Chancel, which may be carried by Boats, not only to what Landing-places they please, but to what Market they please, upon the whole River; besides the advantages of building Houses, Cranes, Store-houses, and Landing-places, and the planting of Gardens and Orchards,

as aforesaid ; with all such other Priviledges, Advantages, Profits, Accommodations, and Conveniencies, as will accrue to the Gentry, and others aforesaid, that are and will be seated upon the ancient River. Great also will be the Advantages that will issue from hence to them, through whose Grounds those new Channells shall come, especially where the Water shall be penn'd up ; who will not only have very great opportunities, very well to drown, and water very many of their own, and their Neighbours Grounds by their permission ; but may also below the Flood-gate, where the Water is much lower, have a rare Advantage for draining, which they never had before ; without which draining (as Drowners well know ) their drowning will signifie little, besides the benefit and privilege, which they will have by fishing in those Rivers ; so that by this means the profits hereof may more then pay them for the loss of their Ground, through which the said Channell shall run. But supposing, but not granting, that it were otherwise ; yet I am confident, where it meets with men of Honour, and Interest, and with persons of a publick Spirit, who have an indeared love and affection, not only to their native Country, but to their Posterity, that shall rise up after them, that none of these will be of so low and narrow a Spirit, as to manifest any unwillingness to part with a little ground, to promote so noble and so publick a Work, which (I am no less confident) will be vastly advantageous, not only to the Country in general, but more especially to the several Lords of Mannors and Proprietors, not only of the River it self, but of all the Lands and Commons that are bordering upon it, and are any way convenient to be drowned and watered. For by this means there may be Banks raised, and the Water also, to so considerable an height, by Bays and Stanchells made quite athwart the said River, as that it may be easily carried up a great distance from the present River into new Cuts ; which may be so contrived, as to accommodate both the aforesaid Proprietors, and the Undertakers also. Which if the said Proprietors can but timely foresee, and will make choice of some able person or persons, who are the most skilful in drowning and watering, to advise and consult with the said Undertakers, or such whom they may appoint ; it is more then probable, that they may mutually agree, that the said new Cuts may be made in such places as may be most convenient to accommodate the Proprietors, and they may also all along, as they are making the said Cut, place in Hatches for the conveying the Water into their Grounds ; whereby such a vast advantage may be made to the Proprietors themselves,

selves, and their Heirs for ever, at a less Charge, than one years Improvement, as may be worth near ten thousand pounds *per Annum*: besides the great advantage that may accrue to those who have the Royalty of the said River, by obtaining power from the said Undertakers, to alter and turn the Water-course into those new Cuts aforesaid, and thereby gain to themselves what Land they please, which before was covered with Water. And indeed I am so great a Friend to all such noble and publick Undertakings, that I could heartily desire, that both the said Proprietors and Undertakers may go hand in hand herein, and make it a publick Work indeed, both as to Navigation, and Improvement by Watering, as it is possible to be done, and would be much more for the advantage of the Proprietors, then if the Undertakers should do, and finish all themselves, and so consequently (which must unavoidably follow upon it) reap all the advantage and benefit that accrues thereby; and the Proprietors be necessitated (upon their refusal to joyn in this Work) to rent the Water and Hatches yearly, at ten or twenty Shillings the Acre more or less, as the Undertakers shall think fit; who by the Acts of a Parliament have all the profits of the said River vested in them; as also a Power with any seven of the Commissioners, to impose Fines, and Penalties, and Punishments on any, who shall take away any of their Water without their consent, or shall any otherwise annoy the said River; and to sue for the same by Action of Debt, in any Court of Record, or (if they please) to levy the same upon the Transgressors thereof, as by the said Act it doth more at large appear.

And thus having answered those Objections, and clearly demonstrated, That this Noble Work of making the said River Navigable, will be very advantageous, not only to the City aforesaid, and to those Market-Towns that are near the said River, but to all the Country aforesaid far and near, I, who am no Undertaker, nor Inhabitant of the said City or Market-Towns, shall take the boldness to unite, and (as it were) to incorporate the said City, and Market-Towns, and Country, and shall call them all by the Name of a Country, and invite them all joyntly to carry on, and perfect this brave, noble, and publick Work purely upon a publick and Country account, they being all concerned herein. And therefore, that you may all, both high and low, rich and poor, lend your hearts, heads, and purses, as one man, for the promoting and carrying on of this great Work, that the labour and travel of this so long hoped for birth may not, after all, prove abortive, and miscarry for want of help and strength to bring

bring it forth; I could here lay before you the Industry of our Neighbouring Countries of the *Netherlands*, and other parts of *Germany*, *Italy*, *France*, *Spain*, and many other places, who have reaped great advantages by those famous Rivers of the *Rhine*, the *Main*, the *Rhone*, the *Scheld*, &c. (to name no more, though many other places might be instanced, in which God and Nature had situated as this place, before their Rivers came by Industry to be made Navigable) I might also mind you of the great Industry, and Charge that hath been laid out, to make considerable and useful Rivers, where there were none before, and that for many hundreds, if not some thousands of miles, which have not been fed, and supplied with Water by Springs and Fountains, but by the Rain that comes down from the Heavens, and of the vast Profits and Emoluments, that the bordering Countries have been enriched with by means of these Rivers, which have been indeed so great, as is not possible for me to express, nor for any that have not travelled on them to conceive. And yet those useful Rivers aforesaid were made by those, whose Air and Situation is not so advantageous to their Intellectuals, as our Air is. And shall we famous *English* Spirits, whose Ancestors have been so highly admired for their Valour, Zeal, Courage, Activity, and Industry in all Noble, Heroick, and Publick Achievements, degenerate now, and be of such low, narrow, and effeminate Spirits, as to be no ways useful in our Generation? shall we be always said to be the lazy Drones, when others are accounted industrious Bees? In short, shall we always, like *Jonas*, lye asleep, when we are called upon Summer after Summer, and that so loud, not only by Kings, Lords, and Commons, but by our dear Country it self, which lies (as it were) gasping between hope and fear, whether it will be done or no, and are daily expecting, not only when we shall awake out of sleep, but also when we shall be so happy, as to hear that long looked for word of Command. Come let us up and be doing.

But (may some say) we know it is a very brave, worthy, and publick Work, as well as you, and we are as heartily for it, as your self; but what shall we do? and how shall we that are private Country-Gentlemen and others begin it? To this I answer, That there is something done in order to a beginning, and that very considerable, by the Right Worshipful the Major and Commonalty of the City of *New Sarum*; who to the end, that no private person or persons whatsoever might undertake it, and thereby take the advantage to ingross the benefit of it to themselves, or to farm it out to others; and so by themselves, or their Farmers oppress

oppress the Merchants and other Trades by unreasonable Impositions, Taxes and Tolls, whereby those vast profits and advantages to the Country, which I before spake of, would be rendred very inconsiderable; and so raise and advance themselves and their Families by impoverishing the Country, and bereaving them of those vast profits and advantages which they expected; have taken forth a Commission under the Broad Seal of *England*, to impower them to undertake it.

And really I must tell you, I cannot see where this Power could have been better placed, then in the Major and Commonalty aforesaid. For that this will be most advantagious to the Country, will appear by these Reasons.

1. They being a Corporation, can never dye; though particular persons may dye, yet a Corporation never dyes.

2. No particular person amongst them can lay any more claim, in point of Right, to any part of their money or stock, then he can to any other mans Estate, but only as he is one amongst that great number that have such a Trust.

3. Whereas it will be the Interest of all other private persons, that might have been concerned as Undertakers, to lay the Impositions, Tax, and Toll upon Goods, that should be conveyed to and fro, in Boats, &c. upon the said River, as high as they could. It will be the Interest of the Major and Commonalty, which consists of Merchants and Traders, being themselves concerned therein, to lay the said Taxes and Tolls as low as is possible.

4. Again, Most men are more desirous to have dealing with Corporations, then with any other private men, expecting nothing but what is honourable and just from such Bodies Politick; because amongst them no man can or ought to carry on his own private Interest, but the publick, neither can any man be a Gainer as to himself. And it would be a very enormous thing, if such a Council, consisting of a Major, Recorder, and such a number of men, vested with such a power, and interested with such weighty Concerns, should act or do any thing that should have but a shew or shadow of Injustice, or unhandfomness in it.

And therefore now let any, whosoever he be, shew me (if he can) where the Undertakership for making the said River Navigable, could have been so well placed; and till then, I shall rest fully satisfied, that it is not only very well, but also best placed where it is.

Now therefore I humbly conceive, that it is expedient for you, Gentle  
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men of the Country, and all other persons, whom it may concern, to know, that although the said Major and Commonalty have so secured the Undertakership, as that it is not likely to fall into the hands of such (as I have mentioned before) who may fill their own purses by emptying of yours; yet it is a Work of that weight, and exceeding great Charge, as that they are not able, of themselves, to carry it on, without the assistance of the whole Country aforesaid. And this is the great Reason, why I do so much press you, to make it a pure Country-work, as also, because the whole Country, as well as the City, will be concerned in it. And the rather, that (if it be possible to prevent it) none of those that are called Sharers, may be admitted. For such there are, who are ready (if the Country and others will not comply with what I have proposed) to put in each of them a certain Sum of Money towards the carrying on, and perfecting of the Work. But you must know, that the Sharers will expect very great advantages, for laying out their money (and indeed the profits that will raise by the Taxes and Tolls, to be imposed upon Boats, Barges, &c. that pass and repass upon the said River, and the other Emoluments that will come in by the said River, when it shall be made Navigable, will afford it) which at the long run it will be found that the Country must pay. The prevention of which mischief is the great cause, why I have given you and my self this great trouble.

Now that I may the more clearly demonstrate this unto you, and convince you, that it is your Interest to make this business a pure Country-work, and that you may plainly understand it, I shall make my reckoning thus. We will suppose, that when the Work shall be perfected, there shall come up the said River but one Bark or Barge of thirty Tun of Goods in twenty four hours, and that there be but the value of one penny for every hundred Weight of Goods that shall be so brought up, paid to the said Undertakers by way of Tax, Toll, Duty, &c. for the defraying of their publick Charges (which I cannot but foresee will be very great) this will amount unto fifty Shillings a day; and so much more back again will raise it to five pounds a day, which will amount unto thirty five pounds a week. But if you suffer Sharers to come in, they may (probable) advance the Taxes and Toll to four pence, or five pence the hundred for all the said Goods. And if so, I beseech you, consider to what a vast Sum of Money this must needs amount in a year; and out of whose purses this must come, it is easie for any one that hath not his eyes blinded by prejudice to foresee.

Besides, lest the Country in general should be so far mistaken as to conceive, that the chief benefit of this Noble and Publick Work will redound only to the said City, and the rest of the Market-Towns situated upon the said River, in regard they are Traders, &c. which cannot be said of the Country; and shall upon this account look upon themselves, as scarcely (if at all) concerned herein. I answer, That the chief benefit of having all the Commodities aforesaid at the cheaper Rate, will redound to the Country. For the Country being, for number of Inhabitants, not so little as ten times more, than the said City and Market-Towns, it will necessarily follow, that the Country will gain at the least five shillings for every six-pence, that the said City and Market-Towns will gain hereby: which I shall illustrate by this Instance. Sack, which before the late Additional Duty was laid upon it, was sold for 18 *d.* per Quart, is now raised to 25. *d.* per Quart. Now let it be considered, who it is that pays the 6 *d.* per Quart, which is the Duty imposed, and it will be found, that it is neither the Merchant, nor the Vintner, but the Consumers. Now as the burden of that Imposition lies heaviest upon the Consumers; so in the Case now before us, they are the Consumers will have the greatest profit by the cheapness of Coal and Salt, and all other Goods to be brought up the said River; and who are they for the most and greatest part but the Country. Now if the Country hath so much the greater benefit by it (as is before demonstrated) it must needs follow, that there is very great Reason, that the Country should be as much (if not more) concerned, in promoting and carrying on this noble and publick Work, as the said City and Market-Towns.

But if what I have said will not awaken you, I am however so great a Friend to my Country, and so great a Well-wisher to this noble Undertaking, that I would rather have Sharers admitted, and would come in as a Sharer my self, then so gallant an Enterprize should be let fall, being very willing that the Country should have some benefit hereby, though far less than they might have had, had they so far understood their own Interest, as to have made it a publick Work, and that the Poor may have (at the least) half, or a quarter of a Loaf, rather than no bread. And thus you may all see, not only where you are, but where you are like to be, if you do not look about you.

Howbeit, we of this Country cannot but return our many humble and hearty thanks to those worthy Patriots, *viz.* the Learned and Worthy Bishops of London, and Salisbury, the Honourable Lord Ashley,  
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the Lord Cornbury, Sir John Nicholas, Sir Stephen Foxe, with others, who have shewed themselves to be true Lovers both of the City and Country; of whom we may truly (and that without flattery) say that other Worthies before them have done nobly, but these, have exceeded them all. For without doubt, had they not stood in the gap, and cordially, and vigorously appeared for the promoting and carrying on of this Act, this brave and noble Work would not only have withered, but to all intents and purposes have dyed. And who knows what these Worthies may do further, for the good of their poor Country, in reference to the further carrying on of this great Work, if applications were made to them about it. And for one of the said Learned and Worthy Bishops, we have the Honour of his Presence, and Residence sometimes amongst us; by means whereof we may have the better opportunity to apply ourselves to him, who is known to be a Person of very great Learning, especially in the Mathematicks: And therefore would he be pleased, so far to favour and honour his Country, as to vouchsafe them his Learned advice and assistance, they might be able, without the help of a Surveyor, not only to begin, but also to finish the whole Work. And who knows what Providence pointed at, not only in endowing him with Parts and Abilities fit for such a Work, but also in bringing him hither, and settling him in a Palace situated so near the said River? Besides, who knows, whether his worthy Example in owning and encouraging so noble a Work, may not have a great Influence, not only upon the rest of the Learned and Worthy Clergy-men, but upon the Gentry also, both within and without the Walls of the Close, to incite and provoke them to afford their utmost assistance in a Work, from which, if it be once effected, there will redound such vast advantages to the Country in general, and great Honour and Renown to those that shall have a hand in promoting it?

And now it may not be inexpedient, before I conclude, to speak a word to you of the City, and the other Market-Towns bordering upon the said River. How necessary it is, that you would often meet together, and consult your own Interest, in order to the excluding of Sharers, and that both your hearts and your purses be opened, in order to the compleating of this Work? Methinks every Company and Fraternity of all sorts of Traders should be free and generous, in laying out such money as they have in stock, or can raise upon their Lands, as they are Companies incorporate: and all Gentlemen, Merchants, and other Traders,  
and

and Inhabitants whatsoever, should try to the utmost what they are able to raise, every one of them upon his own single account, for the promoting of so noble a Work. And for such Handicrafts men, yea, and Labourers, who have not money to spare, there will be several occasions of their assistance otherwise, in carrying on of this Work, though but one day in a week; that not only themselves, but the Generations to come, may taste the sweetness, and reap the benefit of it. And as for the Country, Oh! how well-becoming a thing would it be for the Gentry, Ministers, Farmers, &c. as they met at Markets, and other places occasionally, to consult together, how they may promote, not only their Country's Interest, but their own; and to appoint likewise times and places, when and where four, six, eight, or more, or less may meet together, to consider of the most effectual way for the carrying on of the said Work. And methinks those that are of active publick Spirits, should not only do it themselves, but should also stir up and provoke each the other to take Subscriptions, some for the building of Locks, Weirs, openings of Bridges, &c. and some for the making of Flood-gates, and raising of Banks; others for finding of Stone and Timber, and others for what money they will give towards the carrying on of so publick a Work; and for those who cannot help any of these ways, to get Subscriptions from them, how many days work in a month they will give with their Carts, Waggons, and Teams of Horses; and for all others, to the very Handicrafts men, and Labourers, how many days work they will likewise freely subscribe to do. This would be a brave publick Work, and well-becoming, not only the Yeomen and Farmers, but also the Gentlemen, and the Ministers of each Parish to promote, and take such Subscriptions, and to bring them in unto the Undertakers, and to consult with them, what is farther necessary to be done, both for the keeping out of Sharers, and making it a free and voluntary Country-work, and for the speedy completing of it. It would also be a Work well-becoming the Country-Gentlemen, Ministers, and others that border on each side of the said River, more especially those who live between *Salisbury* and *Fording-bridge*, frequently to meet and consult together; and not only so, but to view and survey the said River, and to consider how much they are able to do towards the making it Navigable, and whar Contributions and voluntary Subscriptions they can procure (as was before proposed) towards the making of Locks, Flood-gates, Weirs, openings of Bridges, &c. as also for Stone, and Trees, and for

Teams,

Teams, Carts, and Carriages; and what voluntary help and assistance they can obtain from Masons, Brick-layers, Carpenters, Smiths, &c. and any other person of what degree soever, for the furtherance of this great Work, and to communicate what they can do herein to the said Undertakers, or some, or one of them, as aforesaid. And if those worthy Gentlemen, Ministers, and others that dwell between *Fording-bridge* and *Ringwood*; as also those that dwell between *Ringwood* and *Christ-Church* on both sides of the said River, would do the like; this would be the way, not only to keep out all Sharers, but to make it the free Port and River in the World. And when I shall see them at this Work, I shall then certainly conclude, that they are not only awakned, but that the Work will soon be finished.

I shall add no more, but only two words to the Undertakers, the one by way of humble Advice, the other by way of Petition. That which I shall offer by way of Advice, is, that for the encouragement of all that shall voluntarily subscribe their aid and assistance, as aforesaid, towards the carrying on of this noble Undertaking, they would publickly and freely declare by some Instrument drawn for that purpose, and sealed with the Seal of their Corporation, that whatsoever monies, or other aid and assistance shall be subscribed, and brought in for that purpose, shall be truly and faithfully laid out about the aforesaid noble and publick Work, and upon no other account whatsoever; and that for the better satisfaction of the Subscribers and Contributors, a Book shall be kept, wherein all such Receipts, and the Disbursements shall be entred, which said Book shall be open every *Tuesday*, *Thursday*, and *Saturday* between the hours of two of the Clock and five in the Afternoon, in what place, or what other days and hours to them shall seem best; whereunto all the Subscribers and Contributaries (as aforesaid) may freely resort, as often as they please, during the whole time of the said Work, in order to their satisfaction, both as to what is subscribed, and received, and how the same is disbursed; and also that they would therein declare, that when it shall please God to enable them to compleat and finish the said Work, upon such a free and publick account, as aforesaid, they will then make and impose so moderate and so low a Tax, Toll, or Duty upon all the Goods that shall be exported or imported upon the said River, as shall so near as they are able to make any Judgment of them, only serve to pay the neat Charges, which shall be expended about the necessary reparation and maintaining of the several Locks, Banks, Bridges, Ways, and other incident

incident Charges relating to the Premises. And that for the better satisfaction of all the aforesaid persons, there may be once in every year a fair and just account drawn out in several Tables, of all the Profits that shall arise by the said Tax or Toll; as also of all Charges that shall be expended, which may always be attested by the Major for the time being, to be a true Copy, and exposed to publick View, in all the several Market-Towns upon the said River, for the satisfaction of all Parties concerned.

That which I shall add by way of Petition, and with which I will conclude, is this: I would earnestly beg of them, and that for Gods sake, that they would enter it as their first Order and Decree, that two pence upon every Tun of Goods of all sorts, that shall be imported or exported to or from any Port upon the said River, may for ever be paid, to and for the only use and benefit of the Poor, who shall be bordering all along on both sides of the said River, which may be an excellent means to bring down the Blessing of the Almighty upon their Undertaking, and may be according to that of the Preacher, *Ecclesi. 11. 1. As a casting of their bread upon the waters, which shall not be lost, but shall be found again after many days*; and that this Order and Decree might be as the Laws of the Medes and Persians, to all intents and purposes whatsoever. Humbly conceiving, that by this means such a stock may be raised, which by the Magistrates prudent care may be employed in setting all the Poor on work that are able to work, and such as through age or otherwise, are disabled from working, may be so well provided for, that it may be said both of the City, and all the other Towns bordering upon the said River (which was the Honour and Happiness of *Israel* of old) that a Beggar shall not be found amongst them.

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FINIS.

